

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising: ~~in which~~
~~one or more~~

at least one information output ~~apparatus~~ ~~apparatuses that~~ configured to output an
information signal, including ~~and an information input apparatus that accepts input of the~~
~~information signal from each of the one or more information output apparatuses are~~
~~connected to each other, wherein: each information output apparatus comprises:~~

an output terminal ~~for outputting~~ configured to output only the ~~[[an]]~~
information signal, ~~[[;]]~~

a related information sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send at
least specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the at least one information output
apparatus, ~~[[;]]~~ and

an information-for-identification superimposing ~~means for superimposing~~ unit
configured to superimpose information for identification onto ~~to be used for~~
~~identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus for accepting input of~~
~~the information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal;~~
and

an ~~[[the]]~~ information input apparatus configured to accept the information signal
from the at least one information output apparatus, including ~~comprises:~~

plural ~~a plurality of~~ input terminals ~~for accepting~~ configured to accept ~~input of~~
only ~~[[the]]~~ information ~~signal~~ signals, ~~[[;]]~~

a specific information accepting ~~means for accepting input of~~ unit configured
to accept the specific information, ~~[[;]]~~

~~a switching means for switching~~ unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals, [[:]]

~~an information-for-identification detecting means for detecting~~ unit configured to detect the information for identification ~~from each~~ superimposed on one of the information signals that are accepted by [[the]] ~~a~~ respective one of the plural input terminals, and to cause ~~by causing~~ the switching [[means]] unit to switch among the plural input terminals, [[:]] and

~~an identifying means for identifying an~~ unit configured to identify the respective one of the plural input terminals, ~~terminal of the information signal from~~ which accepted the information for identification [[is]] detected, ~~by the information-for-identification detecting means~~ as an input terminal [[of]] for the information signal sent from [[an]] the at least one information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending [[means]] unit.

2. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising: ~~in which~~
~~one or more~~

at least one information output apparatus ~~apparatuses that~~ configured to output an information signal, including ~~and an information input apparatus that accepts input of the~~
~~information signal from each of the one or more information output apparatuses are~~
~~connected to each other, wherein: each information output apparatus comprises:~~

~~an output terminal for outputting~~ configured to output only the [[an]]
information signal, [[:]]

~~a related information sending means for sending~~ unit configured to send at least specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the at least one information output
apparatus, [[:]] and

an information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing unit
configured to superimpose information for identification onto to be used in the
information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus
that outputs the information signal on the information signal to be output from the
output terminal; and
an [[the]] information input apparatus configured to accept the information signal
from the at least one information output apparatus, including comprises:

plural a plurality of input terminals for accepting configured to accept input of
only [[the]] information signal signals, [[:]]

a specific information accepting means for accepting input of unit configured
to accept the specific information, [[:]]

a switching means for switching unit configured to switch among the plural
input terminals, [[:]]

a notifying means for notifying unit configured to notify a user about the
information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal supplied
from an input terminal to which switching is made by the switching [[means]] unit by
reproducing the information for identification, [[:]] and

a decision manipulation means for accepting unit configured to accept a
manipulation of deciding an input terminal of the information signal sent from an
information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

3. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising: in which
one or more

at least one information output apparatus apparatuses that configured to output an
information signal, including and an information input apparatus that accepts input of the

~~information signal from each of the one or more information output apparatuses are connected to each other via a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information, wherein: each information output apparatus comprises:~~

an output terminal for the first communication interface₁ [[]];

a related information sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send specific information of the [[self]] at least one information output apparatus as additional information to the second communication interface₁ [[]] and

an information-for-identification superimposing ~~means for superimposing~~ unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto ~~to be used for~~ ~~identifying an input terminal for the first communication interface of the information input apparatus for accepting input of the information signal on the information signal~~ to be output from the output terminal; and

an [[the]] information input apparatus configured to accept the information signal from the at least one information output apparatus via a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface for transmission of an information signal and additional information, the information input apparatus including ~~comprises:~~

plural ~~a plurality of~~ input terminals for the first communication interface₁ [[]];

a specific information accepting ~~means for accepting input of~~ unit configured to accept the specific information that is transmitted via the second communication interface₁ [[]]

a switching ~~means for switching~~ unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals₁ [[]]

an information-for-identification detecting means for detecting unit configured to detect the information for identification ~~from each~~ superimposed on one of the information signals that are accepted by ~~[[the]]~~ a respective one of the plural input terminals for the first communication interface, and to cause ~~by causing~~ the switching ~~[[means]]~~ unit to switch among the plural input terminals, ~~[[;]]~~ and

an identifying means for identifying an unit configured to identify the respective one of the plural input terminals, ~~terminal of the information signal from~~ which accepted the information for identification ~~[[is]]~~ detected, ~~by the information-~~ ~~for identification detecting means~~ as an input terminal ~~[[of]]~~ for the information signal sent from ~~[[an]]~~ the at least one information output apparatus that sent the specific information via the related information sending ~~[[means]]~~ unit.

4. (Currently Amended) An information transmission system comprising: in which ~~one or more~~

at least one information output apparatus ~~apparatuses that~~ configured to output an information signal, including ~~and an information input apparatus that accepts input of the~~ ~~information signal from each of the one or more information output apparatuses are~~ ~~connected to each other via a first communication interface for transmission of only an~~ ~~information signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of an~~ ~~information signal and additional information, wherein: each information output apparatus~~ ~~comprises:~~

an output terminal for the first communication interface, ~~[[;]]~~

a related information sending means for sending unit configured to send specific information of the ~~[[self]]~~ at least one information output apparatus as additional information to the second communication interface, ~~[[;]]~~ and

an information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing unit
configured to superimpose information for identification onto to be used in the
information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus
that outputs the information signal on the information signal to be output from the
output terminal; and
an [[the]] information input apparatus configured to accept the information signal
from the at least one information output apparatus via a first communication interface for
transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface for
transmission of an information signal and additional information, the information input
apparatus including comprises:

plural a plurality of input terminals for the first communication interface, [[;]]
a specific information accepting means for accepting input of unit configured
to accept the specific information that is transmitted via the second communication
interface, [[;]]

a switching means for switching unit configured to switch among the plural
input terminals, [[;]]

a notifying means for notifying unit configured to notify a user about the
information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal supplied
from an input terminal for the first communication interface to which switching is
made by the switching [[means]] unit by reproducing the information for
identification, [[;]] and

a decision manipulation means for accepting unit configured to accept a
manipulation of deciding an input terminal for the first communication interface of
the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific
information via the second communication interface.

5. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the information input apparatus further ~~comprises~~ includes a connection management information recording ~~means for recording~~ unit configured to record input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying ~~[[means]]~~ unit and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus in ~~[[an]]~~ a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

6. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the information input apparatus further ~~comprises~~ includes a connection management information recording ~~means for recording~~ unit configured to record, when the decision manipulation ~~[[means]]~~ unit accepts the deciding manipulation, input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal to which switching is made by the switching ~~[[means]]~~ unit and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus in ~~[[an]]~~ a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

7. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the at least one information output apparatus sends ~~[[,]]~~ to the information input apparatus ~~[[,]]~~ via the related information sending ~~means,~~ unit a switching control signal including the specific information of the ~~[[self]]~~ at least one information output apparatus ~~[[and]]~~ to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the ~~[[self]]~~ at least one information output apparatus before outputting the information signal via the output terminal.

8. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 5 or 6 1, wherein:

the information input apparatus further includes

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection management memory and configured to record connection management information in the connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated to each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit; and

the at least one information output apparatus further includes ~~comprises:~~

a connection management information supply request generating means for generating unit configured to generate a request for supplying to supply the connection management information stored in the connection management memory of the information input apparatus, ~~in which the input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other;~~ and

a switching control signal generating means for generating unit configured to generate a switching control signal to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the ~~[[self]]~~ at least one information output apparatus based on the connection management information that is supplied from the information input apparatus in response to the connection management information supply request, ~~[[; and]]~~

wherein before outputting an information signal via the output terminal, the at least one information output apparatus sends [[,]] via the related information sending [[means]] unit [[,]] the connection management information supply request and the switching control signal generated by the switching control signal generating [[means]] unit.

9. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein the at least one information output apparatus further ~~comprises~~ includes:

an input terminal identification information receiving ~~means for receiving~~ unit configured to receive input terminal identification information of the input terminal identified by the identifying [[means]] unit of the information input apparatus; and

a connection management information recording ~~means for recording~~ unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving [[means]] unit in a connection management memory, [[; and]]

wherein before outputting an information signal via the output terminal, the at least one information output apparatus causes the related information sending [[means]] unit to send the information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory.

10. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the at least one information output apparatus further ~~comprises~~ includes:

an input terminal identification information receiving ~~means for receiving~~ unit configured to receive input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal to

which switching is made by the switching [[means]] unit when the decision manipulation [[means]] unit accepts the deciding manipulation; and

a connection management information recording ~~means for recording~~ unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving [[means]] unit in a connection management memory, [[; and]]

wherein before outputting an information signal via the output terminal, the information output apparatus causes the related information sending [[means]] unit to send the information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory.

11. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing [[means]] unit of the at least one information output apparatus superimposes a display message on the information signal in a case where the information signal is a video signal.

12. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 2 or 4, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing [[means]] unit of the at least one information output apparatus superimposes a voice message on the information signal in a case where the information signal is an audio signal.

13. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1 or 3, wherein:

the information-for-identification superimposing ~~[[means]]~~ unit of the information output apparatus superimposes pattern information that is predetermined as the information for identification on the information signal as information for detection; and

the information-for-identification detecting ~~[[means]]~~ unit of the information input apparatus detects the pattern information superimposed on the information signal.

14. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to ~~claims 5 or 6~~ claim 1, wherein:

the at least one information output apparatus further includes ~~comprises~~

a start request receiving means for receiving unit configured to receive a start request for starting processing of identifying an input terminal that is sent from the information input apparatus, [[:]]

the related information sending ~~[[means]]~~ unit sends the specific information when the start request receiving ~~[[means]]~~ unit receives the start request, and [[:]]

the information-for-identification superimposing ~~[[means]]~~ unit superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the start request receiving ~~[[means]]~~ unit receives the start request; and

the information input apparatus further includes ~~comprises~~:

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection management memory and configured to record connection management information in the connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the at least one information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated to each

other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit,

a detecting ~~means for detecting~~ unit configured to detect whether the connection management information in which the input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other is stored in the connection management memory of the [[self]] information input apparatus, [[;]] and

a start request sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send the start request when the detecting [[means]] unit detects that connection management information is not stored.

15. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~ 1, wherein [[;]] the at least one information output apparatus further ~~comprises~~ includes:

an input terminal identification information receiving unit configured to receive input terminal identification information of the input terminal identified by the identifying unit of the information input apparatus;

a connection management information recording unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving unit in a connection management memory;

a detecting ~~means for detecting~~ unit configured to detect whether the input terminal identification information is stored in the connection management memory of the [[self]] at least one information output apparatus;

the related information sending ~~[[means]]~~ unit sends the specific information when the detecting ~~[[means]]~~ unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored; and

the information-for-identification superimposing ~~[[means]]~~ unit superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the detecting ~~[[means]]~~ unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored.

16. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

the at least one information output apparatus further ~~comprises~~ includes a manipulation ~~means for accepting~~ unit configured to accept a start instruction input that commands start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the ~~[[self]]~~ at least one information output apparatus;

the related information sending ~~[[means]]~~ unit sends the specific information when the manipulation ~~[[means]]~~ unit accepts the start instruction input; and

the information-for-identification superimposing ~~[[means]]~~ unit superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the manipulation ~~[[means]]~~ unit accepts the start instruction input.

17. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein:

the at least one information output apparatus further ~~comprises~~ includes a start request receiving ~~means for receiving~~ unit configured to receive a start request for start of processing of identifying an input terminal that is sent from the information input apparatus;

the specific information sending ~~[[means]]~~ unit sends the specific information when the start request receiving ~~[[means]]~~ unit receives the start request;

the information-for-identification superimposing ~~[[means]]~~ unit superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the start request receiving ~~[[means]]~~ unit receives the start request; and

the information input apparatus further includes ~~comprises~~:

a connection change detecting means-for-detecting unit configured to detect a connection change in any of the input terminals of the [[self]] information input apparatus, [[;]] and

a start request sending means-for-sending unit configured to send the start request when the connection change detecting ~~[[means]]~~ unit detects a connection change in any of the input terminals.

18. (Currently Amended) The information transmission system according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the output terminal of the at least one information output apparatus and an input terminal of the information input apparatus are connected to each other via a communication interface for an analog signal.

19. (Original) The information transmission system according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the first communication interface is an analog interface and the second communication interface is a digital interface.

20. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected to an information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for accepting input of only

an information signal and capable of accepting input of specific information of ~~an electronic~~
the information output apparatus, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal;

a related information sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send at least
specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus; and

an information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing unit
configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information signal to be
output from the output terminal, so as to be used for identifying an input terminal of the
information input apparatus ~~for accepting input of~~ to accept the information signal ~~on the~~
~~information signal to be output from the output terminal.~~

21. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected to an
information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for accepting input of only
an information signal and capable of accepting input of specific information of ~~an electronic~~
the information output apparatus, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for outputting only an information signal;

a related information sending ~~means for sending~~ unit configured to send at least
specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus; and

an information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing unit
configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information signal to be
output from the output terminal, so as to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a
user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information signal ~~on the~~
~~information signal to be output from the output terminal.~~

22. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information, to an information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for the first communication interface and capable of accepting supply of the information signal and the additional information via the second communication interface, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for the first communication interface;

a related information sending means-for-sending unit configured to send specific information of the ~~[[self]]~~ information output apparatus to the second communication interface as additional information; and

an information-for-identification superimposing means-for-superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information signal to be output from the output terminal, so as to be used for identifying an input terminal for the first communication interface of the information input apparatus ~~on the information signal to be output from the output terminal~~, the input terminal ~~being for~~ accepting input of the information signal.

23. (Currently Amended) An information output apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information, to an information input apparatus having a plurality of input terminals for the first communication interface and capable of accepting supply of the information signal and the additional information via the second communication interface, the information output apparatus comprising:

an output terminal for the first communication interface;

a related information sending means for sending unit configured to send specific information of the [[self]] information output apparatus to the second communication interface as additional information; and

an information-for-identification superimposing means for superimposing unit configured to superimpose information for identification onto the information signal to be output from the output terminal, so as to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs an information signal on the information signal to be output from the output terminal.

24. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, wherein the information output apparatus sends [[,]] to the information input apparatus [[,]] via the related information sending [[means]] unit [[,]] a switching control signal including specific information of the [[self]] information output apparatus and to be used for making switching to an input terminal of the information input terminal that is connected to the output terminal of the [[self]] information output apparatus before outputting an information signal via the output terminal.

25. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising:

a connection management information supply request generating means for generating unit configured to generate a request for supplying connection management information held by the information input apparatus in which specific information of the information output apparatus and input terminal identification information indicating an input

terminal connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other; and

a switching control signal generating ~~means for generating~~ unit configured to generate a switching control signal to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus based on the connection management information that is supplied from the information input apparatus in response to the connection management information supply request,

wherein before outputting an information signal via the output terminal, the information output apparatus sends [[,]] via the related information sending [[means]] unit [[,]] the connection management information supply request and the switching control signal generated by the switching control signal generating [[means]] unit.

26. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising:

an input terminal identification information receiving ~~means for receiving~~ unit configured to receive input terminal identification information indicating an input terminal identified in the information input apparatus as an input terminal connected to the output terminal of the [[self]] information output apparatus; and

a connection management information recording ~~means for recording~~ unit configured to record the input terminal identification information received by the input terminal identification information receiving [[means]] unit in a connection management memory,

wherein before outputting an information signal via the output terminal, the information output apparatus causes the related information sending [[means]] unit to send

the information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory.

27. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising a start request receiving means for receiving unit configured to receive a request for starting processing of identifying an input terminal that is sent from the information input apparatus, wherein:

the related information sending [[means]] unit sends the specific information when the start request receiving [[means]] unit receives the start request; and

the information-for-identification superimposing [[means]] unit superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the start request receiving [[means]] unit receives the start request.

28. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 21 or 23, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing [[means]] unit superimposes a display message on the information signal in a case where the information signal is a video signal.

29. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 21 or 23, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing means of unit superimposes a voice message on the information signal in a case where the information signal is an audio signal.

30. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 20 or 22, wherein the information-for-identification superimposing [[means]] unit superimposes

pattern information that is predetermined as the information for identification on the information signal as information for detection.

31. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising detecting ~~means for detecting~~ unit configured to detect whether the input terminal identification information is stored in the connection management memory of the information output apparatus, wherein:

the related information sending unit sends the specific information when the detecting unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored; and

the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the detecting unit detects that the input terminal identification information is not stored.

32. (Currently Amended) The information output apparatus according to any one of claims 20 to 23, further comprising a manipulation ~~means for accepting~~ unit configured to accept a start instruction input that commands start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the information output apparatus, wherein:

the related information sending unit sends the specific information when the manipulation unit accepts the start instruction input; and

the information-for-identification superimposing unit superimposes the information for identification on the information signal when the manipulation unit accepts the start instruction input.

33. (Original) The information output apparatus according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the output terminal of the information output apparatus is to be connected to a communication interface for an analog signal.

34. (Original) The information output apparatus according to claim 22 or 23, wherein the first communication interface is an analog interface and the second communication interface is a digital interface.

35. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for outputting only an information signal and capable of sending specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural ~~a plurality of~~ input terminals for accepting input of only an information signal;
a specific information accepting means for accepting unit configured to accept input of specific information;

a switching means for switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals;

an information-for-identification detecting means for detecting unit configured to detect information for identification from each of the information signals that ~~[[are]]~~ is accepted via a respective one of the ~~respective~~ plural input terminals, and to cause ~~by causing~~ the switching ~~[[means]]~~ unit to switch among the plural input terminals; and

an identifying means for identifying unit configured to identify an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected by the information-for-identification detecting ~~[[means]]~~ unit as an input terminal of the information

signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the specific information accepting ~~[[means]]~~ unit.

36. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for outputting only an information signal and capable of sending specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural ~~a plurality of~~ input terminals for accepting input of only an information signal;
a specific information accepting means for accepting unit configured to accept input of specific information;

a switching means for switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals;

a notifying means for notifying unit configured to notify a user about information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal supplied from an input terminal to which switching is made by the switching ~~[[means]]~~ unit by reproducing the information for identification; and

a decision manipulation means for accepting unit configured to accept a manipulation of deciding an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the specific information accepting ~~[[means]]~~ unit.

37. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information, to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for the first

communication interface and capable of sending information to the second communication interface, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural ~~a plurality of~~ input terminals for the first communication interface;

a specific information accepting means for accepting unit configured to accept specific information that is transmitted via the second communication interface;

a switching means for switching unit configured to switch among the plural input terminals;

an information-for-identification detecting means for detecting unit configured to detect information for identification from each of information signals that ~~[[are]]~~ is accepted by a respective one of the respective plural input terminals for the first communication interface, and to cause by causing the switching ~~[[means]]~~ unit to switch among the plural input terminals; and

an identifying means for identifying unit configured to identify an input terminal of the information signal from which information for identification is detected by the information-for-identification detecting ~~[[means]]~~ unit as an input terminal of the information signal sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the specific information accepting ~~[[means]]~~ unit.

38. (Currently Amended) An information input apparatus to be connected, via a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal and a second communication interface enabling transmission of an information signal and additional information, to an information output apparatus having an output terminal for the first communication interface and capable of sending information to the second communication interface, the information input apparatus comprising:

plural ~~a plurality of~~ input terminals for the first communication interface;

a specific information accepting ~~means for accepting~~ unit configured to accept
specific information that is transmitted via the second communication interface;

a switching ~~means for switching~~ unit configured to switch among the plural input
terminals;

a notifying ~~means for notifying~~ unit configured to notify a user about information for
identification that is superimposed on the information signal supplied from an input terminal
for the first communication interface to which switching is made by the switching [[means]]
unit by reproducing the information for identification; and

a decision manipulation ~~means for accepting~~ unit configured to accept a manipulation
of deciding an input terminal for the first communication interface of the information signal
sent from an information output apparatus that sent the specific information accepted by the
specific information accepting [[means]] unit.

39. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 35 or
37, further comprising a connection management information recording ~~means for recording~~
unit configured to record input terminal identification information indicating the input
terminal identified by the identifying [[means]] unit and the specific information of the
information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that
they are correlated with each other.

40. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 36 or
38, further comprising a connection management information recording ~~means for recording~~
unit configured to record, when the decision manipulation [[means]] unit accepts the deciding
manipulation, input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal to which
switching is made by the switching [[means]] unit and the specific information of the

information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

41. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 38, further comprising a switching control means for controlling unit configured to control the switching ~~[[means]] unit~~ in accordance with a switching control signal that is sent from the information output apparatus and accepted by the related information accepting ~~[[means]] unit~~.

42. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim ~~39 or~~ 40 ~~35~~, further comprising:

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection management memory and configured to record connection management information in the connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated to each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit;

a connection management information sending means for sending unit configured to send the information output apparatus the connection management information stored in the connection management memory in which the input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other in response to a connection management information supply request that is sent from the information output apparatus and accepted by the related information accepting [[means]] unit; and

a switching control ~~means for controlling~~ unit configured to control the switching
[[means]] unit in accordance with a switching control signal that is sent from the information
output apparatus and accepted by the related information accepting [[means]] unit.

43. (Original) The information input apparatus according to claim 36 or 38, wherein
the information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal is a display
message.

44. (Original) The information input apparatus according to claim 36 or 38, wherein
the information for identification that is superimposed on the information signal is a voice
message.

45. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 35 or
37, wherein:

the information for identification is predetermined pattern information; and
the information-for-identification detecting [[means]] unit detects the pattern
information that is superimposed on the information signal.

46. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to ~~any one of~~
~~claims 39 to 42~~ claim 35, further comprising:

a connection management information recording unit provided with a connection
management memory and configured to record connection management information in the
connection management memory, the connection management information including input
terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output
apparatus such that the input terminal identification information and the specific information

are correlated to each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified by the identifying unit;

a detecting means for detecting unit configured to detect whether the connection management information in which the input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other is stored in the connection management memory of the [[self]] information input apparatus; and

a start request sending means for sending unit configured to send a start request for starting processing of identifying an input terminal of the [[self]] information input apparatus to which the output terminal of the information output apparatus is connected when the detecting [[means]] unit detects that the connection management information is not stored.

47. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 38, further comprising:

a connection change detecting means for detecting unit configured to detect a connection change in any of the plural input terminals of the [[self]] information input apparatus; and

a start request sending mans for sending unit configured to send a request for starting processing of identifying an input terminal of the self apparatus to which the output terminal of the information output apparatus is connected when the connection change detecting [[means]] unit detects a connection change in any of the plural input terminals.

48. (Currently Amended) The information input apparatus according to claim 35 or 36, wherein the plural input terminals are to be connected to a communication interface for an analog signal.

49. (Original) The information input apparatus according to claim 37 or 38, wherein the first communication interface is an analog interface and the second communication interface is a digital interface.

50. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing in a case where the information output apparatus [[is]] connected to the information input apparatus via one of ~~a plurality of plural~~ plural input terminals of the information input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals [[for]] accepting ~~input of~~ only an information signal; [[and]]

providing the information input apparatus [[is]] capable of accepting ~~input of~~ specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus; ~~comprising the step of:~~

sending the specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output apparatus's ~~sending specific information of the self~~ apparatus to the information input apparatus;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus apparatus's ~~sending information for identification~~ to be used ~~for identifying~~ to identify an input terminal of the information input apparatus, the information for identification being in such ~~a manner that it is~~ superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus; [[and]]

detecting by the information input apparatus apparatus's ~~detecting~~ the information for identification [[from]] superimposed on the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the plural input terminals; [[,]] and

identifying an input terminal of the information signal, from which the information for identification is detected, as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

51. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing in a case where the information output apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ connected to the information input apparatus via one of a plurality of plural input terminals of the information input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals ~~[[for]]~~ accepting ~~input of~~ only an information signal; ~~[[and]]~~

providing the information input apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ capable of accepting ~~input of~~ specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus; ~~comprising the step of:~~

sending the specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output apparatus's ~~sending specific information of the self~~ apparatus to the information input apparatus;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus apparatus's ~~sending information for identification~~ to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information signal in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to an input terminal of the information input apparatus;

notifying by the information input apparatus apparatus's ~~notifying~~ a user about the information for identification superimposed on an information signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing it while switching among the plural input terminals; and

accepting by the information input apparatus ~~apparatus's accepting~~ a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on an information signal supplied from the input terminal to which switching is made, and identifying the input terminal that is selected at the time of the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

52. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing in a case where the information output apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ connected to the information input apparatus having ~~a plurality of plural~~ input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal via the first communication interface and a second communication interface enabling transmission of the information signal and additional information; ~~comprising the step of:~~

sending specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output ~~apparatus's sending specific information of the self~~ apparatus to the information input apparatus via the second communication interface;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus ~~apparatus's sending information for identification~~ to be used for identifying to identify an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface; and

detecting by the information input apparatus ~~apparatus's detecting~~ the information for identification from the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among

the plural input terminals, and identifying an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

53. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing in a case where the information output apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ connected to the information input apparatus having ~~a plurality of~~ plural input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal via the first communication interface and a second communication interface enabling transmission of the information signal and additional information; ~~comprising the step of:~~

sending specific information of the information output apparatus from the information output apparatus's ~~sending specific information of the self~~ apparatus to the information input apparatus via the second communication interface;

sending information for identification from the information output apparatus apparatus's ~~sending information for identification~~ to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information signal in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface;

notifying by the information input apparatus apparatus's ~~notifying~~ a user about the information for identification superimposed on an information signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing it while switching among the plural input terminals; and

accepting by the information input apparatus apparatus's ~~accepting~~ a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on an information signal

supplied from the input terminal to which switching is made, and identifying the input terminal that is selected at the time of the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

54. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing in a case where the information output apparatus [[is]] connected to the information input apparatus via one of a plurality of plural input terminals of the information input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals [[for]] accepting ~~input of~~ only an information signal; [[and]]

providing the information input apparatus [[is]] capable of accepting ~~input of~~ specific information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus; comprising:

transmitting a start request ~~transmitting step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus sends the information input apparatus a start request that includes specific information of the [[self]] information output apparatus and requests start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected;

sending from ~~an information for identification sending step in which~~ the information output apparatus [[sends]] information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus;

~~detecting the information for identification~~ ~~an information for identification~~ ~~detecting~~
~~step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus detects the information for
identification from the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among
the plural input terminals; and

identifying an input terminal ~~identifying step in which~~ wherein the information input
apparatus identifies an input terminal of the information signal from which the information
for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the
information output apparatus that sent the specific information when the information for
identification is detected in the ~~detection of the information for identification~~ detecting
[[step]] the information for identification.

55. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for
identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information
output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing ~~in a case where~~ the information output apparatus [[is]] connected to the
information input apparatus via one of a ~~plurality of~~ plural input terminals of the information
input apparatus, the one of the plural input terminals [[for]] accepting ~~input of~~ only an
information signal; [[and]]

providing the information input apparatus [[is]] capable of accepting ~~input of~~ specific
information of ~~an electronic~~ the information output apparatus; ~~comprising:~~

transmitting a start request ~~transmitting step in which~~ wherein the information output
apparatus sends the information input apparatus a start request that includes specific
information of the [[self]] information output apparatus and requests start of processing of
identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information
output apparatus is connected;

~~sending from an information for identification sending step in which~~ the information output apparatus ~~[[sends]]~~ information for identification to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information signal in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be output via an output terminal connected to the input terminal of the information input apparatus;

~~notifying the information for identification an information for identification notification step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus notifies a user about the information for identification superimposed on an information signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing it while switching among the input terminals; and

~~identifying an input terminal identifying step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus accepts a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on an information signal supplied from the input terminal to which switching is made when the user is notified about the information for identification in the information-for-identification notification step, and identifies the input terminal that is selected at the time of the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

56. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

~~providing in a case where~~ the information output apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ connected to the information input apparatus having ~~a plurality of~~ plural input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal via the first communication interface and a second communication interface enabling transmission of the information signal and additional information; ~~comprising:~~

sending a start request ~~sending step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus sends [[,]] to the information input apparatus [[,]] via the second communication interface [[,]] a start request that includes specific information of the [[self]] information output apparatus and requests start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected;

sending information for identification ~~an information for identification sending step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus sends the information for identification to be used for identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface;

detecting the information for identification ~~an information for identification detecting step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus detects the information for identification from the information signal supplied via the input terminal by switching among the input terminals; and

identifying an input terminal ~~identifying step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus identifies an input terminal of the information signal from which the information for identification is detected as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information if the information for identification is detected in the ~~detection of the information for identification~~ detecting [[step]] the information for identification.

57. (Currently Amended) A connection relationship identification method for identifying an input terminal of an information input apparatus to which an information output apparatus is connected, the connection relationship identification method comprising:

providing ~~in a case where~~ the information output apparatus ~~[[is]]~~ connected to the information input apparatus having ~~a plurality of~~ plural input terminals for a first communication interface for transmission of only an information signal via the first communication interface and a second communication interface enabling transmission of the information signal and additional information; ~~comprising:~~

sending a start request ~~sending step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus sends ~~[[,]]~~ to the information input apparatus ~~[[,]]~~ via the second communication interface ~~[[,]]~~ a start request that includes specific information of the ~~[[self]]~~ information output apparatus and requests start of processing of identifying an input terminal of the information input apparatus to which the information output apparatus is connected;

sending information for identification ~~an information for identification sending step~~ ~~in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus sends the information for identification to be used in the information input apparatus to notify a user about the information output apparatus that outputs the information signal in such a manner that it is superimposed on the information signal to be supplied to the information input apparatus via the first communication interface;

notifying the information for identification ~~an information for identification notification step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus notifies a user about the information for identification superimposed on an information signal that is supplied via the input terminal by reproducing it while switching among the input terminals; and

identifying an input terminal ~~identifying step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus accepts a decision manipulation if the information for identification is superimposed on an information signal supplied from the input terminal to which switching is made when the user is notified about the information for identification in the information-for-identification notification step, and identifies the input terminal that is selected at the time of

the decision manipulation as an input terminal of the information signal sent from the information output apparatus that sent the specific information.

58. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50 to 57, further comprising recording a connection management information ~~recording step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus records input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified in the identifying the input terminal ~~identifying step~~ and the specific information of the information output apparatus in a connection management memory in such a manner that they are correlated with each other.

59. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 58, further comprising sending a switching control signal ~~sending step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus sends the information input apparatus a switching control signal including the specific information of the [[self]] information output apparatus [[and]] to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input terminal that is connected to the output terminal of the self apparatus before outputting an information signal via the output terminal.

60. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 58, further comprising:

sending a connection management information supply request ~~sending step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus generates a request for supplying connection management information stored in the connection management memory in which the input

terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other; and

sending a switching control signal ~~sending step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus generates a switching control signal to be used for making switching to the input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the ~~[[self]]~~ information output apparatus based on the connection management information that is supplied from the information input apparatus in response to the connection management information supply request, and sends the generated switching control signal to the information input apparatus.

61. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 50 or 51, further comprising:

receiving an input terminal identification information ~~receiving step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus receives input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified in the identifying the input terminal ~~identifying step~~;

~~a connection management information recording step of~~ recording, in a connection management memory, the input terminal identification information received in the receiving the input terminal identification information ~~receiving step~~; and

~~an input terminal identification information sending step of~~ sending to the information input apparatus the input terminal identification information stored in the connection management memory before outputting an information signal via the output terminal.

62. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 51, 53, 55, and 57, wherein in the sending the information for identification ~~information for identification sending step of the information output apparatus~~

a display message is superimposed on the information signal in a case where the information signal is a video signal.

63. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 51, 53, 55, and 57, wherein in the sending the information for identification ~~information for identification sending step of the information output apparatus~~ a voice message is superimposed on the information signal in a case where the information signal is an audio signal.

64. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50, 52, 54, and 56, wherein:

in the sending the information for identification ~~information for identification sending step of the information output apparatus~~ pattern information that is predetermined as the information for identification is superimposed on the information signal as information for detection; and

in the detecting by the information input apparatus ~~information for identification detecting step of the information input apparatus~~ the pattern information superimposed on the information signal is detected.

65. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 50 ~~58, 61, 62, 63, and 64~~, further comprising:

recording a connection management information wherein the information input apparatus records the connection management information in a connection management memory, the connection management information including input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus such that the

input terminal identification information and the specific information are correlated with each other, and the input terminal identification information indicating the input terminal identified in the identifying the input terminal;

[[a]] detecting ~~step in which~~ by the information input apparatus ~~detects~~ whether the connection management information ~~in which the input terminal identification information and the specific information of the information output apparatus are correlated with each other~~ is stored in the connection management memory of the [[self]] information input apparatus; and

sending a start request ~~sending step in which~~ from the information input apparatus ~~sends a start request~~ when that the connection management information is not stored is detected in the detecting [[step]],

wherein in the sending the start request ~~sending step of the information output apparatus~~ the start request is sent when the start request is received from the information input apparatus.

66. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to claim 61, further comprising a ~~detecting step of~~ detecting whether the input terminal identification information is stored in the connection management memory of the [[self]] information output apparatus,

wherein in the sending the start request ~~sending step~~ the start request is sent when that the input terminal identification information is not stored is detected in the detecting [[step]].

67. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50 to 57, further comprising accepting an identification instruction input ~~accepting step in which~~ wherein the information output apparatus accepts an

instruction input that commands identification of an input terminal of the information input apparatus that is connected to the output terminal of the [[self]] information output apparatus,

wherein in the sending the start request ~~sending step~~ the start request is sent when the identification instruction input is made in the accepting the identification instruction input ~~accepting step~~.

68. (Currently Amended) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50 to 57, further comprising:

detecting a connection change ~~detecting step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus detects a connection change in any of the input terminals of the [[self]] information input apparatus; and

sending a start request ~~sending step in which~~ wherein the information input apparatus sends a start request when [[the]] a connection change detecting [[means]] unit detects a connection change in any of the input terminals in the detecting the connection change ~~detecting step~~,

wherein in the sending the start request ~~sending step of the information output apparatus~~ the start request is sent when the start request is received from the information input apparatus.

69. (Original) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 51, 53, 55, and 57, wherein the output terminal of the information output apparatus and the input terminal of the information input apparatus are connected to each other via a communication interface for an analog signal.

70. (Original) The connection relationship identification method according to any one of claims 50, 52, 54, and 56, wherein the first communication interface is an analog interface and the second communication interface is a digital interface.

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